Course Outline & Learning Plan

CPS Toolkit:

Advanced Tools for Creative Problem Solving

About the course

Creative Problem Solving (CPS) can be used with a wide variety of divergent and convergent thinking tools. This workshop provides hands-on practice in a dozen of the most useful tools.

Audience

CPS practitioners who would like to become more skilled with divergent and convergent thinking tools, to make their use of CPS more effective.

Course objectives

- Review the CPS process.
- Learn and practice six divergent thinking tools: forced connections, visual connections, word dance, SCAMPER, why-why diagram, and excursions.
- Learn and practice six convergent thinking tools: POINt, card sort, evaluation matrix, paired comparison analysis, RACI, and nine-box.
- Identify when to use which tool for maximum benefit.

Time investment

- Before the class session: 2-4 hours
- During the class session: 16 hours
- After the class session: 2-4 hours plus each participant's ongoing commitment to apply the learning

Class size

We recommend a minimum of six, and a maximum of 24 participants per facilitator. Larger groups can be accommodated by adding additional facilitators.

Customization

All OmniSkills courses are tailored to your organization's needs and goals, and to the specific group taking the course. For more information about customization, contact us using any of the methods below.

Concept Description

Creative Problem Solving (CPS) is a form of deliberate creativity – a structured process for solving problems or finding opportunities, used when you want to go beyond conventional thinking and arrive at creative (original and valuable) solutions. As the source of new ideas and solutions, CPS is an essential part of any innovation and change initiative.

At the heart of CPS – what makes CPS different than other problem-solving methods – is the use of divergent *and* convergent thinking at each stage of the process.

And unlike other problem-solving methods, CPS is tools agnostic: virtually any good divergent or convergent tool can be used with CPS.

This workshop introduces 12 tools that can be used with CPS – and all of which are useful *outside of CPS*, whenever divergent or convergent thinking are needed.

About Divergent & Convergent Thinking

Divergent thinking is wide and free. When you diverge, you generate many options. Tools for divergent thinking include brainstorming, brainwriting, and the six tools included in this workshop: forced connections, visual connections, word dance, SCAMPER, why-why diagram, and excursions.

Divergent thinking is followed by *convergent thinking,* in which you assess, judge, and strengthen those options, and then decide what to keep and how to proceed. Tools for convergent thinking include hits, highlighting, clustering, and the six tools that are included in this workshop: POINt, card sort, evaluation matrix, paired comparison analysis, RACI, and nine-box.

This program is a natural follow-up to OmniSkills' *Creative Problem Solving* workshop, which provides the foundational skills in CPS.

Learning Design

OmniSkills uses the **Torrance Incubation Model for Teaching and Learning** (TIM) as our framework for learning design. Developed by education and creativity pioneer E. Paul Torrance, TIM's three-phase structure – heighten anticipation, deepen exploration, and extend learning – extends learning beyond the classroom event, in both directions. Pre-class activities heighten anticipation for the class and move the base learning out of the classroom. In-class activities, in which we deepen exploration of the subject, are therefore richer and more valuable, taking full advantage of the classroom's participatory group environment. Post-class, we extend learning into the workplace through a rich assortment of activities and media. Only OmniSkills makes this commitment to successful learning by adding these components at no additional cost. For more information, visit www.omniskills.com/tim.

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